

Taxonomic status of the gecko *Pseudothecadactylus lindneri cavaticus* Cogger

L.A. Smith*

Abstract

Pseudothecadactylus lindneri cavaticus is partly redescribed and elevated to a full species on the basis of examination of additional material.

The description of *Pseudothecadactylus lindneri cavaticus* Cogger 1975 was based on three specimens from the Mitchell Plateau area of Western Australia. It was distinguished from *P. lindneri lindneri* Cogger 1975 of the Arnhem Land Escarpment in the Northern Territory by its apparent lack of preanal pores (preanal pores present in nominate *P. lindneri*), its moderately heterogeneous dorsal and lateral scales (scales homogenous in nominate *P. lindneri*) its dorsal pattern (dorsal bands less prominent in nominate *P. lindneri*) and by having the rostral usually contacting the nostril (rostral excluded from nostril in nominate *P. lindneri*). Subsequent material confirms the absence of preanal pores in *P. lindneri cavaticus* and other differences between it and nominate *P. lindneri*. On the basis of these data *P. lindneri cavaticus* is partly redescribed and elevated to a full species.

Diagnosis

Distinguished from other *Pseudothecadactylus* by its lack of preanal pores.

Description

A large *Pseudothecadactylus* (up to 22.5 cm long). Snout-vent length 90-115 mm. Tail 90-108% of SVL.

Rostral 1.75-2.2 times as wide as high (mean 2.0), rarely with a short, weak median groove. Nostril surrounded by first labial, rostral (usually), prenasal (sometimes), 2 supranasals and 4-6 postnasals.

Internasals 2-3. Upper labials 10-14 (mean 12.4). Mental concave, truncate, in contact with postmental. Digits large, compressed, with a continuous double series of 13-19 (mean 16.7) lamellae under forth tow. Scales on snout flat, polygonal, on crown, back and upper surfaces of limbs rounded, moderately heterogeneous, raised and (often on back) compressed thus forming a blunt keel. Preanal pores absent. Males with 1-3 (mostly 2) tubercles in cloacal spur.

Head whitish, mottled brown. Body creamish with 5-7 dark-edged brown bands (sometimes bifurcating). Tail with 9-11 dark edged bands.

Remarks

Pseudothecadactylus cavaticus is larger than *P. lindneri* (SVL 96-115 mm v. 67-107 mm) and has more subdigital lamellae under the fourth toe (13-19, mean 16.7 v. 12-17, mean 15.2).

*Western Australian Museum, Francis Street, Perth, Western Australia 6000.

Material examined

Material examined is housed in the Western Australian Museum and Australian Museum R series (designated WAM and AM respectively).

Pseudothecadactylus cavaticus (all WAM specimens and includes 9 males): Mitchell Plateau area (R43137, 43175, 43176 [holotype], 56161-62, 56176-77, 60690, 61638, 64882, 77033-34, 77626), Boongaree I. (44078-79), Prince Regent River (46973).

Pseudothecadactylus lindneri (includes 11 males): El Sharana (WAM 74001-03), Deaf Adder Creek (AM37129-33, 39520-21, 42123), Mt Brockman Range (AM38730-32, 38735), Oenpelli (AM76506), Jabiluka area (AM88616).

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to A.E. Greer, Curator of Reptiles Australian Museum Sydney for the loan of *Pseudothecadactylus lindneri* specimens.

Reference

Cogger, H.G. (1975). New lizards of the genus *Pseudothecadactylus* (Lacertilia: Gekkonidae) from Arnhem Land and northwestern Australia. *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 30: 87-97.